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2 SEP 30 1999 MR. BUQO: Good evening. My name is Tom Buqo.
3 I'm a consultant with the Nye County Nuclear Waste Repository
4 office.

1... 5 I've been tasked with preparing the Nye County
6 water resources plan. In doing that, part of my evaluations
7 have focused on Pahrump Valley.

8 I have projected that the community of Pahrump
9 will experience water shortfalls and have identified water
10 importation as one alternative for addressing the expected
11 shortfall.

12 Water importation is not a new concept. Already
13 the communities of Tonopah, Logandale, Overton and Virginia
14 City in Nevada and major cities like Tucson and Los Angeles are
15 importing groundwater as a source of water.

16 Because of the overwhelming presence of federally
17 controlled lands in Nye County, water importation will at best
18 be costly and at worst will be prohibitively expensive.

19 Nye County cannot attain additional groundwater
20 from the east because Las Vegas is already overappropriated and
21 overpumped.

22 To the south and southwest, water cannot be
23 imported from California because of the presence of the Mojave
24 National Preserve and Death Valley National Park.

25 To the west and northwest, the presence of the

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1 endangered species at Devil's Hole, Ash Meadows National
2 Wildlife Refuge and area designated by the Bureau of Land
3 Management and areas of critical environmental concern have
4 resulted in prohibitions on water development.

5 To the north, groundwater cannot be developed
6 because of the presence of 300 million curies of radioactive
7 contamination under or near the water table at the groundwater
8 nuclear testing areas on the Nevada Test Site.

9 The proposed repository is predicted to leak
10 additional radioactive contamination into aquifers in the
11 southwestern portion of the Nevada Test Site.

12 Water that is currently potable will be
13 contaminated if the DOE's performance assessment is correct.
14 That will result in a significant adverse impact on the water
15 resources that must be mitigated.

2... 16 In total, the United States has implemented a
17 policy of permissible pollution upgradient of the communities
18 of Amargosa Valley and Pahrump and absolute preservation of the
19 groundwater quality and quantity in the areas downgradient of
20 these communities.

21 Nye County and their water resources planning
22 effort is between the proverbial rock and hard place.

23 Yucca Mountain will perpetuate the policy of
24 permissible pollution and will further reduce the quantity of
25 water that is available to meet future water demands in the

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1 county.

2 Under 40 CFR 1508.18(B)(3), NEPA mandates that
3 the impact of federal policies must be evaluated in an
4 Environmental Impact Statement.

5 The Yucca Mountain EIS must be revised to address
6 the impacts of these contrasting federal water resource
7 policies.

8 In short, Nye County has faithfully served as the
9 nation's sandbox for almost half a century. Unfortunately, the
10 Department of Energy has contaminated their portions of the
11 sandbox and the Department of Interior demands that their
12 portions be left pristine.

13 These policies, while probably unintentional,
14 have had far reaching consequences for the county and greatly
15 hamper water planning efforts.

3 16 Should the repository at Yucca Mountain go
17 forward, a guarantee of safe and adequate water supplies to the
18 citizens of Nye County must be a linchpin of any mitigation,
19 compensation or equity offsets.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. BOOTH: Thank you for your comments.

22 MR. BROWN: Okay. Our next speaker is James
23 William.